(ख) अब तक कितने भवनों का निर्माण हो चुका है, और योजना के अधीन निर्धारित समय सीमा में कितने भवनों का निर्माण नहीं हो पाया है ; और

(ग) क्या भवन निर्माण हेतु आवंटित धनराशि का अन्य कार्यों के लिए प्रयोग किया गया है ?

गैर पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री एस. कृष्ण कुमार) : (क) राष्ट्रीय कृषि अनुसंधान प्रायोजना-II के तहत 359.24 लाख रुपये आवंटित किये गये हैं।

(ख) जवाहर लाल नेहरु कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, जबलपुर (म. प्र.) के तहत अभी तक 19 केन्द्रों में 123 भवनों का निर्माण किया गया है। 21 भवनों का निर्माण किया जाना है। फिर भी इन केन्द्रों में राष्ट्रीय कृषि अनुसंधान प्रायोजना को अमल में लाया जा रहा है।

(ग) इस प्रकार का कोई मामला जानकारी में नहीं आया है।

Production of Arecanut

3320. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Arecanut (Supari) is one of the cash crops of Southern, Eastern and North Eastern States of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that arecanut has alternative uses in confectionary, natural colouring, pharmacology and other industrial uses;

(c) whether this crop helps small growers and is a foreign exchange earner; and

(d) if so, what special plans Government have for improvement and incentive in production of arecanut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Arecanut is one of the cash crops in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal; Assam and Meghalaya.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Arecanut is mainly small and marginal farmers' crop. 640 tonnes of arecanut worth Rs. 4.4 crores was exported during 1991-92.

(d) During 8th Plan, Central Sector Scheme for development of Arecanut is being implemented with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores. The measures implemented under the scheme are:—

(i) Control of fruit rot disease by distribution of plant protection chemicals at 50 per cent of the cost;

(ii) Distribution of plant protection equipment with 50 per cent subsidy;

(iii) Control of Ganoderma disease of arecanut by establishment of replanting and rejuvenation demonstrations;

(iv) Encouraging irrigation facilities by providing 25 per cent subsidy on cost;

(v) Production and distribution of quality seedlings for under planting/gap filling etc. at 50 per cent subsidy; and

(vi) Eradication of Yellow Leaf disease affected palms by paying compensation at the rate of Rs. 100/- per palm.

Rice Cultivation

3321. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under rice production in 1991-92 was about one per cent less than the previous year;

(b) what was the area under rice production during 1992-93;

(c) what are the main reasons for the decline in the area under rice cultivation; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase the production of rice to meet the increasing demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area under rice during 1992-93 is currently estimated at 41.39 million hectares.

(c) The reasons for decline in area under rice cultivation was deficient rains at the time of sowing in some parts of the country.

(d) For increasing the production of rice, the Government is implementing an Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD) in different States besides ensuring price and market support.

Phasing out of Tobacco Cultivators

3322. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to phase out tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the number of farmers likely to be affected by the phase out;

(c) the loss of revenue likely to fall as a result thereof; and

(d) what alternate plan is being chalked to rehabilitate these affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tobacco Cultivators in A. P.

3323. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the advice given by Prime Minister to tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh to switch over to other crops;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to follow through on the suggestion;

(c) whether there is a proposal to encourage tobacco farmers to switch over to non-traditional crops like sunflower and soyabean; and

(d) steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board in the Ministry of Commerce, which is regulating the production and marketing of Virginia tobacco which is mainly grown in Andhra Pradesh has taken note of the advice given by the Prime Minister to farmers in A.P. to switch over to other crops.

(b) The Tobacco Board has fixed production targets of about half of the last year's target for the year 1993-94 to match the demand and also decided not to permit virginia tobacco cultivation in Northern black soils and Central black soil regions of A.P. for the year 1993-94.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board has been advising the farmers of Northern and Central black soil areas to stop Virginia tobacco cultivation in 1993-94 and switch over to alternate crops like sunflower, soyabean, pulses vegetables etc.

The Board has also requested the Govt. of A.P. to provide assistance like seed, pesticides etc. in their crop production schemes by giving preference to Virginia tobacco growers to switch over to alternate crop.